



Carl Brucher sits in his super bantam at his Washington Street home. He races dragster regularly at a Reading drag course. See story this page. (MIRROR photo by Ros-Al)

## Carl Brucher spends Sundays in the fast lane

By JOHN WILCHKA

Some men like to spend their Sundays working in the garden, hitting a few golf balls, or lounging in front of the television with the remote control in one hand and a beer in the other.

Carl Brucher of 137 Washington St., Carbondale, spends his Sundays in the fast lane. If Carl were into the illegal "hobby" of pulling fire alarms, he could ring one on the West Side, drive to the East Side and pull one there, then beat the fire trucks back to the West Side.

But you don't have to worry about that because Brucher is a complete gentleman.

How does he get around so fast?

Fastest car in town

Well, he owns the fastest car in town — he is a drag car racer.

A member of the National Hot Rod Association, Brucher celebrated his 23rd year of racing, finishing up the 1981 season with what he describes as his best year.

Over those 20-plus years he has earned a name for having some of the cleanest and fastest machinery to hit the quarter-mile drag strip.

It was in 1958, the 40-year-old father of two remembers, that he caught the racing fever (his only hobby), with a 1937 Ford with

a 322 cubic inch Buick motor in it. During this past season he used a maroon and silver roadster, "The Super Bantam," with a lightweight S&W chassis and powered by a 351 Ford engine.

He has been making weekly three-hour trips to Maple Grove, Reading. When he began making the trip with his crew of wife Rose and sons Carl and Alan, Brucher found his Ford-powered roadster to be quite competitive and earned a spot on the Money Trail Super Pro Team for the NHRA NED Brucker finals.

He still makes the trip, towing his racer, even though gasoline prices have doubled. One thing remains the same: his Ford-powered bantam stays in the front in the weekly \$500 car super pro races against some of the most respected napes in the Northeast.

May has always been good to the Carbondale man.

And this May was no exception as during the first five meets of May, including the pro start top gas meet at the Dutch Classic, he was a semi-finalist once, a runner-up twice, and a winner twice.

His competition was hoping that June would end the streak.

He is helped in his sponsorship by Mid-Way Performance of Mount Carmel.

No help from calendar

However, Brucher showed the calendar neither helped nor hindered him as he continued his winning spell throughout the season, winning as recently as Sunday, Oct. 11. In fact, he has the most wins at Maple Grove for the 1981 season. He also is the only driver to put together three straight wins at the track.

The car he uses has been featured on the cover of *Super Ford Magazine*, and has appeared in *Super Stock Magazine* and *The National Dragster*, a nation-wide drag racing paper.

The inside of his car isn't big enough to carry the groceries home from a trip to the store.

The gearshift is located between his legs and the steering wheel is just about as big as a dish from the kitchen table.

Of course, the car is equipped with roll bars and it's too awesome a machine to drive on city streets.

When asked how long he works on his car each week, Brucher told the MIRROR, "Sometimes a few hours, sometimes a few days. All depends on how she's running."

Right now "she" uses gasoline, but may switch to alcohol next year.

He is helped in his sponsorship by Mid-Way Performance of Mount Carmel.

## Council says 'whoa' when city asks for loan

Carbondale city council said whoa to the city's administration when it requested permission to borrow \$50,000 at Monday night's council meeting.

The solons listened as a resolution was read by city clerk Mary Milligan.

That resolution sought council approval so that the city administration could negotiate a temporary loan of \$50,000 to be paid with the first tax monies of 1982.

Council president James McMyne quickly pointed out that the first council knew of this request was late last week when each received the agenda and other information pertinent to the Monday night session.

The council president noted that he was safe in saying, "We're trying to put the fox in the chicken coop."

He argued that the city has many outstanding taxes.

He also stressed that the administration could have had all three men "a long time ago" instead of just recently laying off 10 people.

Councilman Michael Tolerico, a long-time opponent of administration fiscal policies, added that in 1980 funds were borrowed from other accounts and put into the general fund, without council permission.

He called those funds as being wasted. He also said that the city's "financial director lied to the newspapers."

And, unless he gets some satisfaction before the next council meeting, Tolerico warned that he wants council to hire an

attorney to take the administration to court for its "illegal" financial moves.

McMyne cited several examples of the administration spending its 1981 year's budget in about half a year for many items.

Because of the financial crisis, McMyne said, "We have to go to the essential services."

Mentioning the wage tax increase he asked for and was granted last year, McMyne said that increase was the equivalent of 15 mills and now the administration, he said, is asking for still more although last year it denied it needed more money to balance the budget.

McMyne ended his remarks by calling the administration's policy as "irresponsible."

By NAN WATERS

The wives of two Carbondale clergymen are involved in administering and instructing an early childhood program for the

Scranton YWCA, which includes 158 preschoolers who attend classes in six satellite church centers throughout Lackawanna County.

Four of these classes meet at the First United Methodist Church in Carbondale.

Elizabeth Lloyd of Jermyn is director of a Y program, which includes, among her responsibilities, Sesame Set, an Early Childhood Program for Enrichment and Socialization. (Her husband, the Rev. John Lloyd is pastor of Lackawanna Episcopal Ministry, which includes churches in Carbondale, Forest City, Jermyn, Danduff and Oliphant.)

Esther Pullis, whose husband the Rev. Claude A. Pullis is pastor of Carbondale's Beran Baptist Church, teaches Sesame Set classes Mondays and Wednesdays at the Assembly of God Church, Peckville.

Love children

Both are from outside the area, having arrived here within the last year and a half — Esther last Feb. 1 — both have children in college and both exhibit a real love of children and their development.

And so do Marsha Richards of Blakey, and her assistant (who also happens to be her mother) Corrine Richards, who are in charge of Sesame Set classes in Taylor and at Carbondale Methodist Church.

And no, the MIRROR is not misspelling Sesame — the name for the program is deliberately spelled with a middle e instead of an a, so as not to conflict with another copyrighted name.

In a late afternoon interview at Carbon-

dale Methodist Church last week, this quartet of caring, highly qualified instructors talked about their classes and the tots they instruct.

Sesame Set is not actually a school ... but an enrichment program to help preschoolers who attend classes in six satellite church centers throughout Lackawanna County.

The latter includes making such goodies as popcorn and instant pudding.)

Not day care

The program is not in any sense a day-care facility for working mothers, nor is it without cost.

Parents who want their youngsters to have the social interaction of instruction and playtime with others their age — 3-4, and 5-year-olds — pay \$5 a child for 18 weeks of one-day-a-week time, plus \$5 for a YWCA membership. A majority of kids attend more than one session a week.

There are field trips ... this week to a pumpkin farm to select Halloween jack-o'-lanterns ... and parties for Christmas and other holiday events.

All billing and administrative details, including insurance, are handled by the Y, according to Mrs. Lloyd. The program is self-supporting, and the Y does no real advertising to promote Sesame Set.

Since all four instructors enjoy their work immensely, the MIRROR inquired what part means the most to them.

They agreed unanimously that the "interaction among the children, trying to solve their own problems among themselves" is very significant. The way their personalities change as a result is most important to their instructors.

While there are no great discipline problems among the various classes, Corrine

Richards notes that her daughter, Marsha, carries through with discipline, and an occasional "tapping of the table" brings the tots into line.

It's a matter of getting into routines, the instructors point out ... and since they are all different personalities, they all instruct differently. Their jobs, while rewarding and interesting, are physically tiring.

Mrs. Lloyd holds a B.A. in early childhood education from Worcester State College in Massachusetts, and has been working on her master's degree locally.

She and Father Lloyd spent 17 years as missionaries in Japan. They have two sons in New England, a married daughter in New York, another daughter, Julia, a freshman at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., and a younger daughter, Becky, at home.

A native of the Los Angeles area, Esther Pullis holds a BA from the University of Redlands, Redlands, Calif., a degree in early childhood education from a New York state college, and a master's degree in religious studies.

She and her husband have a son, Stephen, a senior at San Francisco State College; a married daughter, Lynne, of Rochester, N.Y., and a foster daughter, Sharon Fitzgerald, who attends Michigan State University. The Pullises moved here last February from Okemos, Mich.

Marsha Richards holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mansfield State College.

So if you live in an area surrounding Carbondale, Peckville, Monaca, Elmhurst, Taylor or Moose, and you have a youngster you want to get ready for his first school experience, Sesame Set through the Scranton YWCA, some 2½ hours a day may be for you. Call the Y at 342-3266 and make arrangements.

## Encore Theatre gears up for first production

By NAN WATERS

MIRROR drama critic

"My, this is the most ambitious production you've done so far," we commented to Adelaide (Addie) Burnett, vice president of the new Encore Theatre, during a Sunday night rehearsal of "Cabaret," which the company is giving the first two weekends in December.

"Whoa, hold on," replied the personable Mrs. Burnett. "This is Encore Theatre's FIRST production."

And indeed it is. There were so many familiar faces from the recently dissolved Coal Company Theatre, and West Side Players, together with a few fresh new faces that we felt almost at home.

True, Encore Theatre is a whole new ballgame, and a most ambitious one, with a smash Broadway hit scheduled for Dec. 5, 12 and 13 at Carbondale Area High School, a new director-choreographer, the talented Allyn Benson, a cast and crew of 45, a chorus and a larger-than-usual orchestra in the pit.

Plus, gifted pianist Bob Stephens, who'll be helping musical director Eddie Schulte.

Rainy day

We dropped in at a dance rehearsal of "Cabaret" on a rainy Sunday evening at Marian Hall in the Professional Building at the rear of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Addie Burnett, Betty Opalka, recording secretary for the theatre group, and mother of pretty Fran Opalka, who plays the lead in the show and son, Eddie, who plays Ernst, sat in a corner observing. Fran and a group of cast members were running over a musical selection with Schulte at the baby grand.

Dancers in jeans and tops and tap shoes sat around waiting for Allyn Benson to put them through their paces. Different segments of the cast, dancers, singers, straight dialogue, are rehearsed on separate evenings.

Among them were Paul Duganovelo and Bobby Anderson, among others, who have appeared in other local shows; Patty Maximus of Hawley, a professional dancer, and others who never danced before the cast went into rehearsal Sept. 24.

Soon the taped music of the show's opening number, "Wilkommen," (or welcome)

filled the tile-floored rehearsal hall. Following Benson's lead, little long limbs kicking and torso twisting, the young dancers did their thing, over and over again. A twist here, a turn there, over and over, one more time. Benson, it appears, settles for nothing less than perfection.

Long way

"They've come a long way," says Addie Burnett, "since we began rehearsals in September."

Doesn't he ever give these kids a break? we wonder. Next the dancers pose for a sort of cake walk, to the original score tape of the "telephone song."

"What is it?" we ask Addie. "I don't know, a sort of Peabody. You remember the Peabody, don't you, Nan?"

Vaguely, yes, unfortunately we do. Later we ask Allyn Benson the name of the intricate dance and laughing, he replies, "The telephone dance."

Encore Theatre president Tom Rinaldi

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SESEME SET early childhood program principals, from left, Corrine Richards, Marsha Richards, Esther Pullis, and Elizabeth J.D. Lloyd, discuss plans for the program. See story this page. (MIRROR photo by Ros-Al)